

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

# Vampire Hunter D

3

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAIKO TAKAKI



DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING



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# Vampire Hunter D

## Volume 3

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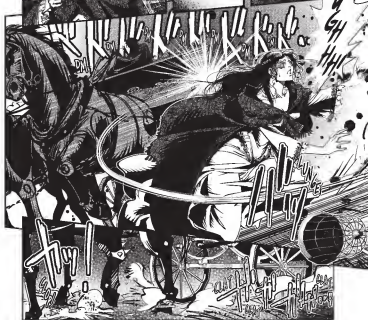
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—A  
NOBLE!



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VISHNU VILLAGE



HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

# Vampire Hunter D

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SAIKO TAKAKI



VISHNU VILLAGE







THANK  
YOU FOR  
COMING.

THANK  
YOU FOR  
COMING

...  
BUT,  
YOU'RE  
TOO  
LATE.

...EVERY  
LAST  
PERSON  
HERE'S BEEN  
DONE IN,  
INCLUDING  
ME.

—HE  
TOOK OFF  
WITH MY  
DAUGHTER.

GO ON...  
PURSUE  
HIM.

IF  
SHE'S...  
ONE  
A' THEM  
ALREADY...  
KILL HER  
ON THE  
SPOT.

CHASE  
HIM DOWN  
AND  
BRING HER  
BACK...

HE  
FLED  
NORTH  
...LAST  
NIGHT.

MY  
SISTER  
LIVES  
THERE.

I BELIEVE  
YOU'RE  
QUICK ENOUGH  
TO CATCH UP.  
IF YOU RESCUE  
HER, GO TO  
THE TOWN OF  
GALIUSHA.

PLEASE.

SAVE MY  
DAUGHTER  
FROM THIS  
ACCURSED  
FATE...



THIS  
LOOKS  
LIKE  
FUN.















SO...



I GUESS  
YOU DON'T  
GO FOR  
PRO-BONO  
WORK,  
HUM?

YOU'RE  
JUST  
GONNA  
HANG OUT  
THERE  
IN THE  
WOODS?



SO YOU  
MUST BE  
IN THE  
SAME  
BUSINESS.

THAT  
OLD MAN  
WASN'T  
TALKIN'  
TO US...

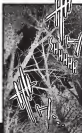
THIS JOB'S  
WORTH TEN  
MILLION.  
WHY DON'T  
WE TALK IT  
OVER, COME  
TO SOME  
ARRANGEMENT

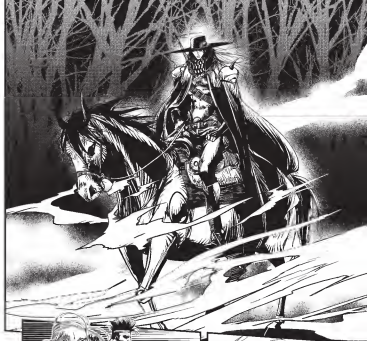


THIS WAY'S  
QUICKER,  
BRO!



SHUNN!









WHERE'S  
THE  
HARM IN  
INTRO-  
DUCING  
OUR-  
SELVES?

MAYBE  
YOU ARE A  
HUNTER THE  
OLD MAN  
HIRED, BUT SO  
ARE WE.

HOLD  
UP.



THE REAL  
BIG GUYS  
OUR OLDEST  
BROTHER  
BORGOFF.



I'M THE  
FOURTH  
BROTHER  
—KYLE.



WE'RE  
THE  
MARCUS  
CLAN.

—I'M  
NOLT,  
THE  
SECOND  
OLDEST.



NICE  
TO MEET  
YOU--MR.  
TALKATIVE.

I'M  
LEILA.



SHE'S  
THE  
YOUNG-  
EST.

THAT'S  
ALL OF  
US...

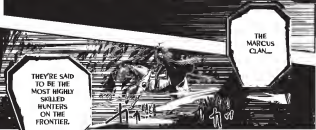
...SO  
WHO'RE  
YOU?



WE'VE GOT  
ANOTHER  
BROTHER,  
BUT HE'S AN  
INVALID AND  
CAN'T LEAVE  
THE VEHICLE.



.....D.



THEY'RE SAID  
TO BE THE  
MOST HIGHLY  
SKILLED  
HUNTERS  
ON THE  
FRONTIER.

THE  
MARCUS  
CLAN



THE NOBILITY  
THEY'VE  
BROUGHT  
DOWN EASILY  
NUMBER IN  
THE TRIPLE  
DIGITS.

AND  
THEY'RE  
CRUEL AND  
RUTHLESS  
TO BOOT!



YOU'VE  
HEARD  
OF THEM  
TOO,  
HAVEN'T  
YOU?



...THE SAME  
NOBLE AS  
THEM LIVES  
TO TELL  
THE TALE.

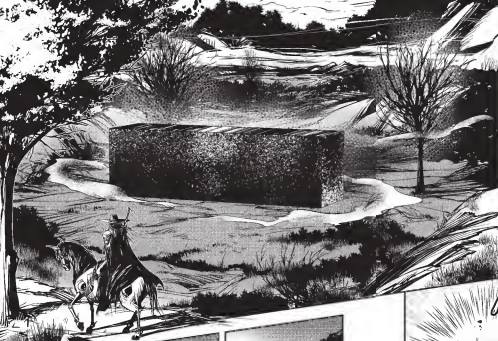
THEY SAY  
NO HUNTER  
WHO GOES  
AFTER...



YOU BETTER  
BE EXTRA  
CAUTIOUS  
THIS TIME  
AROUND.

WHATEVER  
COULD  
THIS ALL  
MEAN?







I CAN'T  
TELL IF  
THEY'RE  
HUMAN OR  
NOBILITY

TWO—  
A MAN,

AND A  
WOMAN

YOU'D  
BETTER  
HURRY,  
THE SUN'S  
ABOUT  
TO SET



HOW  
MANY  
ARE  
INSIDE?





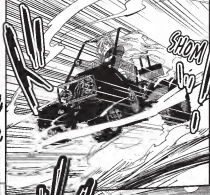
YOU CAN'T  
ONE-UP THE  
MARCUS  
CLAN, NOT  
AS LONG  
AS I'M  
AROUND.

SO,  
WE MEET  
AGAIN.

MOVE  
ASIDE,  
THEN.

IS THE  
PREY IN  
THERE?







BET  
THAT ONE  
RATTLED  
YOUR  
BONES!  
NOW  
SCRAM!



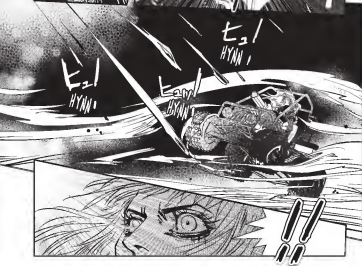
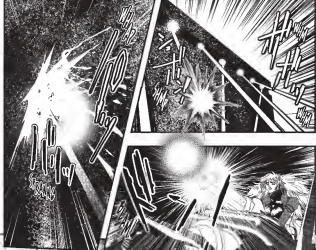
THAT'S  
RIGHT!

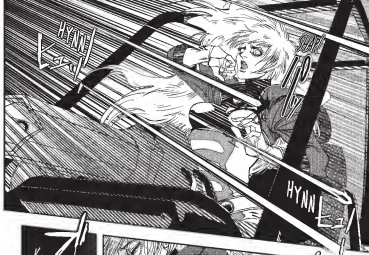


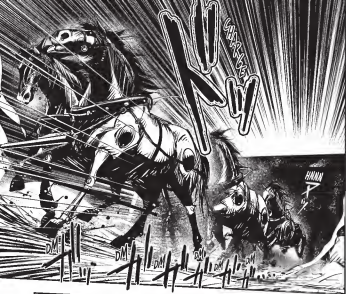
INSTEAD,  
YOU  
WASTED MY  
GODDAMN  
TIME  
ACTING  
TOUGH!

YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
DONE  
WHAT I  
SAID TO  
BEGIN  
WITH!











STAND  
ASIDE.





BUT I'VE  
NO WISH  
TO POINT-  
LESSLY  
SHED  
BLOOD.

YOU MAY  
BE SCUM  
WHO HUNT  
PEOPLE  
DOWN  
FOR A  
LIVING,



YOU  
SHOULD  
TRY TO  
DO THE  
SAME.

I TOOK  
HER  
BECAUSE I  
WANTED  
HER.



RETURN  
THE  
GIRL TO  
ME.









I BELIEVE  
HIS NAME'S  
MAYERLING.



I'VE  
HEARD  
OF YOU,  
TOO.



...ONLY  
ONE YOUNG  
LORD IS  
PRAISED  
BY HIS  
SUBJECTS  
FOR HIS  
VIRTUE.

THEY  
SAY, OF  
ALL THE  
NOBILITY...



SO,  
YOU'RE  
O—



YOUR  
FACE,  
YOUR  
SKILL—

ANY  
NOBLE  
WOULD  
PALE AT  
THE  
MENTION  
OF YOUR  
NAME.

I'VE  
HEARD  
OF YOU  
BEFORE.



TELL  
THAT TO  
THE  
FATHER...

...WHOM  
YOU'VE TURNED  
INTO ONE LIKE  
YOURSELF  
BEFORE YOU  
TOOK HIS  
DAUGHTER.



I'VE  
ALWAYS  
WANTED  
TO MEET  
YOU,  
ONE  
WAY OR  
ANO-  
THER.

AND  
NOW,  
YOU  
HAVE.



I'VE  
DONE  
NOTHING  
TO THE  
HUMANS.

WHY NOT  
JUST LET  
US GO  
ON OUR  
WAY?







HEARD A  
STRANGE  
VOICE,  
DID YOU?

NOW  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
GONNA  
DO?





WHAT  
ARE YOU,  
DELIRIOUS  
...?

WE  
COUL'D'VE  
BEEN  
WRAPPING  
UP THIS  
JOB RIGHT  
ABOUT  
NOW...



YOU DO  
REALIZE...

EVEN IF HE'S  
SUCKED HER  
BLOOD, IF YOU  
KILL THE NOBLE,  
SHE'LL RETURN  
TO NORMAL.

SO, WHAT  
ABOUT  
THE GIRL  
THE NOBLE  
KIDNAPPED  
?

SHE'LL  
JUMP FOR  
JOY AT  
THAT.

I CAN'T  
JUST  
IGNORE  
HER.

...SHE'S THE  
COMPETI-  
TION, DON'T  
YOU?



WHAT  
THE HELL  
ARE YOU  
TRYING TO  
SUGGEST?

...  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
DOING?

SERIOUSLY,  
HAVE YOU  
LOST YOUR  
MIND OR  
SOMETHING?

SHUT  
UP.

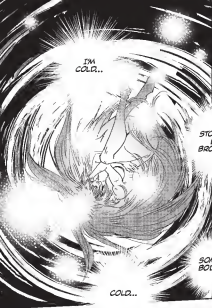


—OR  
FOR  
SOME-  
THING  
ELSE?

JOY?  
JOY FOR  
BEING  
HUMAN  
AGAIN?







IM  
COLD...

STOP IT...  
BIG  
BROTHER.

SOME-  
BODY...

COLD...



PLEASE.



PLEASE.



WHO...?



WHO  
ARE  
YOU...?



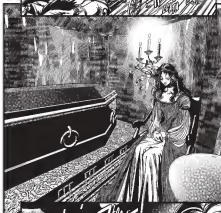
ア  
ハ  
ハハハ



...MOM...

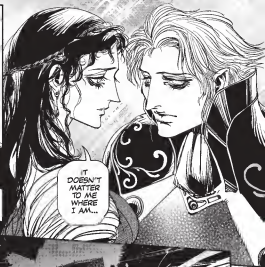


...SO  
WARM...



WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER  
?







WHO THE HELL DID THIS TO LEILA?

SON OF A BITCH!

THE NOBLE? THAT OTHER GUY?

YOU GUYS NEED TO CALM DOWN A NOTCH.



WHO SENT LEILA OFF ON HER OWN WITHOUT TELLING ME?

SORRY ABOUT THAT, BRO.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH ONE IT WAS...



I'LL FIND 'EM BOTH, AND TEAR 'EM TO PIECES!



BUT I CAN'T SEE THAT BEING EITHER OF 'EM.



WHOEVER TREATED HER PROBABLY DIDN'T ATTACK HER...



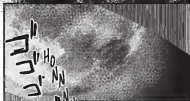
モヤ SHIMMER



THAT'S...  
THE IMAGE  
OF D IN  
BORGOFF'S  
MEMORY...

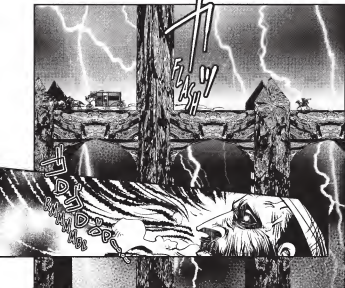


I  
GUESS HE  
MANAGED  
TO PROJECT  
IT...















BRO?



HE FELL  
INTO THE  
RIVER.

SO I  
DOUBT  
HE CAN  
SWIM.

HE'S A  
DHAMPIR.



KYLE.

IT'S  
YOUR  
TURN  
TO  
DRIVE.



FIND  
HIM AND  
FINISH  
HIM OFF,  
NOLT...



YOU JUST  
KEEP QUIET  
AND REST...

DON'T  
GO  
SAYIN'  
THAT  
SHIT.



SORRY  
THAT I  
CAN'T  
HELP AT  
ALL...

I'M  
SORRY,  
BRO...



SORRY  
IF ALL  
THE COM-  
MOTION  
WOKE  
YOU UP.

OH  
GEEZ,  
YOU'RE  
AWAKE?



...  
GROVECK.



—FEELS  
LIKE I CAN  
MANAGE  
TO KEEP  
IT UNDER  
CONTROL.

I'LL BE  
OKAY...



HMM?

YOU WON'T  
HAVE ANY  
MORE  
SEIZURES  
FOR A  
WHILE,  
WILL YOU?



THIS'S  
ABOUT  
WHERE HE  
SHOULD  
BE, I  
THINK...



HOW  
COULD A  
DHAMPYR  
PULL OFF  
A STUNT  
LIKE  
THAT...?

DON'T  
TELL ME  
HE MADE  
IT OUT OF  
THE WATER.



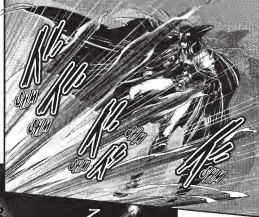


NICE  
OF  
YOU TO  
DROP  
BY.



BAS-  
TARD!











I'VE  
TANGLED  
WITH  
YOUR KIND  
BEFORE.

AND  
I USED  
THIS  
TRICK  
THEN,  
TOO.

HOW  
'BOUT IT,  
DAMPHIR  
?

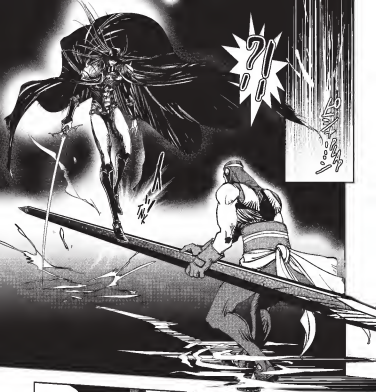


THE WET  
PARTS  
STIFFEN UP  
SOMETHIN'  
TERRIBLE,  
DON'T  
THEY?

WHEN  
DAMPHIRS  
GET  
WET...

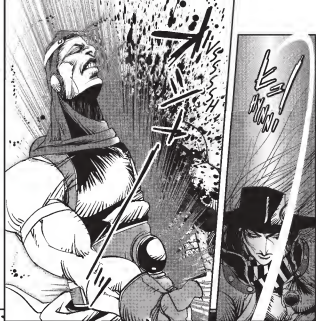


NOW  
DIE!



I AM AN  
ORDINARY  
DHAMPIR.

...YOU...  
YOU'RE NO  
ORDINARY  
DHAMPIR.  
ARE YA...?



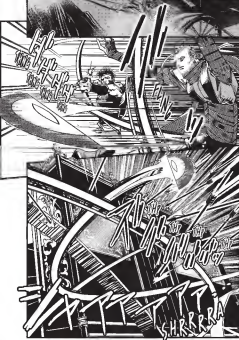


LOOK, IT'S  
A NOBLE  
SIGNAL  
FLARE.



WHO THE  
HELL'S HE  
SIGNALLIN'  
...?







CLOTH ?!

FWOO  
Zay



BENGÉ'S  
TRICKS HAVE  
YOU AT YOUR  
WIT'S END...  
I WOULDN'T  
EVEN BREAK  
A SWEAT,  
DEALING  
WITH YOU.

TRACKED  
DOWN A  
NOBLE THIS  
FAR I SEE...  
I CAME HERE  
TO SEE YOU  
HUNTERS IN  
ACTION, BUT  
I SEE I'M  
NOT MISSING  
MUCH.



A  
WOMAN  
?!

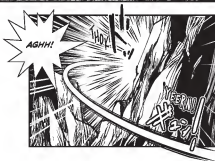
HMM...  
WHY  
DON'T YOU  
CONSIDER  
HIRING  
ONE OF  
US TOO?

...LIKE  
YOU FROM  
FOLLOWING  
HIM.

HE'S COME  
TO ENLIST  
SOME OUT-  
STANDING  
GUARDS  
TO KEEP  
MAGGOTS...

THE  
NOBLE'S  
AT OUR  
VILLAGE.

THIS  
BITCH  
TALKS  
TOO  
MUCH.





THE  
VILLAGE  
OF THE  
BARBAROIS  
...

THAT  
PLACE'S A  
GODDAMN  
DEN OF  
FREAKS.



YOU  
GOT  
HER,  
BRO!

...OUR  
ASSHOLE  
NOBLE HOLED  
UP SOME-  
WHERE WE  
REALLY DON'T  
WANT HIM  
TO BE...

BUT  
SHE  
GOT  
AWAY.

YOU  
SWINE  
...!



SOUNDS  
LIKE  
FUN.

HEHEH...  
I CAN'T  
WAIT  
TO SEE  
WHO'S GOT  
BETTER  
SKILLS-US  
OR THEM!

OH,  
HELL  
YEAH!

AND I'VE  
ALWAYS  
WANTED  
A CHANCE  
TO GO UP  
AGAINST  
THEM.

I'VE  
HEARD  
RUMORS  
ABOUT  
BARBAROIS  
SORCERY...



BUT OUR  
PRIMARY  
TARGET'S  
THE NOBLE  
AND THE  
TEN MILLION  
DALAS.

WE'RE  
STILL  
GONNA  
DYE OUR  
HANDS  
RED WITH  
*SOME-  
BODY'S*  
BLOOD.

IT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER IF  
IT'S THE  
BARBAROIS  
OR EVEN THE  
NOBILITY'S  
SACRED  
ANCESTOR.

NO  
DOUBT  
ABOUT  
IT.

DON'T  
FORGET  
THAT.



WHAT'RE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
?

YOU  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
THAT  
CHAMPIR?

LEILA...  
WHAT'S  
ON YOUR  
MIND?









WHICH  
MEANS...  
HE TOOK  
OUT  
NOLT.



HE'S  
SUPPOSED  
TO HAVE  
DROWNED.

...AIN'T  
HE A  
DHAMPIR?!



RIGHT,  
BRO...?

.....  
WE  
ONLY  
HAVE  
ONE  
CHOICE.

THAT  
SCUMBAG...  
I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
HE GOT  
NOLT...!  
NOW  
WE'VE  
GOTTA  
KILL  
HIM!



GO  
AND GIVE  
GROVE A  
SEIZURE.

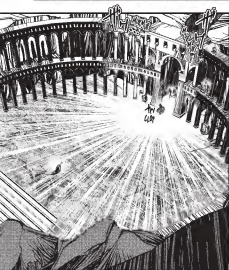
KYLE.

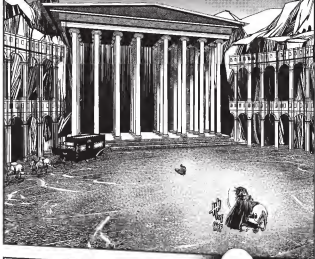


MY  
PLEA-  
SURE.



I DON'T  
WANNA  
DO THIS,  
BUT LET'S  
LET GROVE  
HANDLE  
THINGS  
THIS TIME.





OH-H.



YOU KNOW  
ENOUGH  
TO SHOW  
COURTESY  
TO ELDERS.



I WANT  
YOU TO HAND  
OVER...

...THE TWO  
PASSEN-  
GERS  
FROM THAT  
CARRIAGE.



YOU DIS-  
MOUNTED.





WE WERE PAID TEN OF THE FABLED GOLD TEN THOUSAND-DALA COINS...

COULD YOU AFFORD THAT MUCH?

TOO LATE...

WE'VE ALREADY FINALIZED OUR CONTRACT, WHICH PUTS US ON THE SIDE OF THE CARRIAGE.

CERTAINLY...



OR THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE.

IF I COULD, WOULD YOU SELL OUT YOUR CLIENTS?



THIS IS THE VILLAGE OF THE BARBAROIS, YOU KNOW, AND YET YOU HAVE THE GALL TO SPEAK...

SUCH AMUSING THINGS YOU SAY!

HAN, WHAT A DELIGHT!

...SINCE ANYONE SPOKE TO ME THAT WAY—

IT'S BEEN JUST ABOUT 320 YEARS...



I'M A  
VAMPIRE  
HUNTER.



ARE  
YOU...  
BY ANY  
CHANCE  
...?

THAT  
FACE  
OF  
YOURS  
...



THE FACT  
THAT I'M  
HERE IS  
SIMPLY A  
RESULT  
OF THAT.

THE  
FATHER OF A  
KIDNAPPED  
DAUGHTER  
ASKED ME  
TO PURSUE  
HER  
ABDUCTOR.



YOU'RE  
PROVING  
YOURSELF  
TO BE  
A JUST  
MAN.

NO, IT  
COULDN'T  
BE...

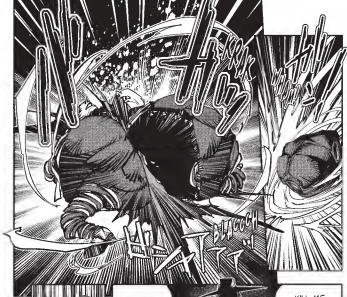
HOHHH.



I DO,  
HOWEVER,  
UNDER-  
STAND  
YOUR  
VILLAGE'S  
POSITION.

ONCE YOUR  
CLIENTS LEAVE  
THIS PLACE,  
I WANT YOU TO  
STAND ASIDE  
AND LET ME  
PURSUE THEM.





I'LL ASK  
NOTHING  
FURTHER  
NOW THAT  
YOU'VE  
ENTERED INTO  
A CONTRACT  
TO ABET  
HIS ESCAPE.

WHY  
NOT JUST  
LEAVE ME  
BE UNTIL  
NIGHTFALL?



KILL ME  
IF YOU LIKE,  
BUT I'LL  
TAKE DOWN  
SEVERAL  
VILLAGERS  
TOO.



...I  
SUSPECTED  
AS MUCH...



YOUR  
POWER,  
YOUR  
SKILL—  
YES.



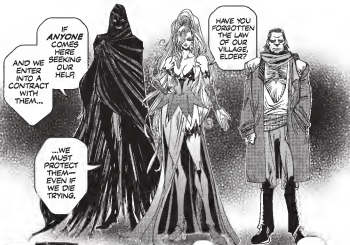
PLEASE,  
ACCEPT THE  
SHRIVELED  
HEAD OF THIS  
OLD FOOL AS  
COMPENSATION  
FOR OUR  
RUDENESS.

I CANNOT  
DEFY YOU,  
LEST ALL  
WHO LIVE  
IN THIS  
VILLAGE DIE,  
DROWNED IN  
A LAKE OF  
BLOOD.



WHAT'RE  
YOU  
SAYING?!







WE'RE  
GOING  
TO DO  
THIS EVEN  
IF YOU  
TRY TO  
STOP US,  
ELDER.

GO AHEAD  
AND EXILE  
US FROM  
THE  
VILLAGE, IF  
YOU LIKE.



I BET  
THERE'RE  
OTHERS  
HERE WHO  
AGREE  
WITH US!  
STEP  
FORWARD!

**YOU  
FOOLS!**





LISTEN,  
IT ALL  
NEARLY  
FELL  
APART  
ONCE.

DO YOU  
HAVE  
ANY  
IDEA...

HOW  
MUCH YOUR  
ANCESTORS  
SUFFERED  
AND TOILED  
TO BUILD THIS  
VILLAGE YOU  
LIVE IN, AFTER  
THEY WERE  
CHASED  
FROM THEIR  
HOMES...

THAT DAY—THE  
FIRST DAY OF  
OUR 10,000  
YEAR HISTORY—  
A HORRIBLE  
TOXIC GAS  
GUSHED OUT  
OF THE  
GROUND AND  
ONTO OUR  
LAND.

...FOR  
HAVING  
CARNAL  
RELATIONS  
WITH  
DEMONS?

HALF THE  
VILLAGERS  
DIED...  
NEARLY ALL  
THE REST  
WERE ROTTING  
AWAY AND  
WAITING FOR  
DEATH...

THAT WAS  
WHEN HE  
APPEARED.

HE HAD  
HEARD  
ABOUT US,  
AND  
RUSHED  
HERE  
WITHOUT  
HESITATION...  
THESE  
WERE HIS  
WORDS:

HE HAD  
EMBARKED ON  
A JOURNEY  
WITH A CERTAIN  
GRAND  
PURPOSE IN  
MIND.





IF THEY DO,  
I SHALL IMMEDI-  
ATELY CHANGE  
THE CALAMITY  
THAT'S BEFALLEN  
THE VILLAGE INTO  
THE PROSPERITY  
FOR WHICH YOU  
LONG.

LET THE FIVE  
STRONGEST  
MOST STALWART  
MEN OF THIS  
VILLAGE  
ACCOMPANY  
ME ON MY  
JOURNEY.



THEN, AS IF  
DRAWN BY  
SOME FORCE,  
A NUMBER OF  
US GATHERED  
TO HIS SIDE.  
THAT NUMBER  
WAS FIVE.

BUT THE  
MOMENT  
HIS APPEAL  
REACHED  
THEIR EARS,  
THEY  
FORGOT  
THEIR  
ANGUISHED  
STRUGGLES.

THIS SQUARE,  
NO, THIS ENTIRE  
VILLAGE WAS  
FILLED WITH  
THE MOANS OF  
THE ROTTING,  
THE DYING.



THIS IS  
A LAW  
YOU  
YOUNG  
ONES  
KNOW  
NOT!

THUS WAS  
THE VILLAGE  
OF THE  
BARBAROIS  
RESTORED!

WITHIN  
THE SPACE  
OF THREE  
BREATHS,  
THE TREES  
BURST INTO  
LEAF  
AND THE  
FLOWERS  
BORE  
FRUIT.

AND BEHOLD,  
THE LAND  
BENEATH THE  
VILLAGE ROSE  
QUICKLY INTO  
THE SKY UNTIL  
IT REACHED  
THIS PLACE  
WHERE IT  
NOW STANDS.

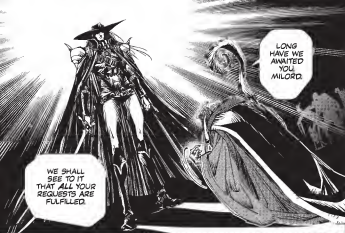
THE MAN  
DEPARTED,  
TAKING  
THE FIVE  
ALONG  
WITH HIM,

LATER WE  
LEARNED  
THAT THE  
TOXIC GAS  
HAD BEEN  
DISSIPATED  
ENOUGH TO A  
HARMLESS  
LEVEL.

THEN,  
WE INTONED  
HIS NAME  
EARNESTLY AS  
WE PLACED  
OUR BROWS  
AGAINST  
THE EARTH.

IF THAT HONORED  
MAN HIMSELF  
OR A MEMBER OF  
HIS BLOODLINE  
SHOULD APPEAR,  
ALL SUBSEQUENTLY  
ESTABLISHED  
LAWS OF THIS  
VILLAGE SHALL BE  
ALLEVIATED IN  
ORDER TO FULFILL  
HIS REQUESTS!

--HEAR  
THIS!



WE SHALL  
SEE TO IT  
THAT ALL YOUR  
REQUESTS ARE  
FULFILLED.

LONG  
HAVE WE  
AWAITED  
YOU,  
MILORD.

HUHA-  
HAHAHA!  
WHAT AN  
HONEST  
FELLOW!

WHA?!  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING  
?

LET THE  
CARRIAGE  
GO, AND  
LET THOSE  
THREE  
GUARD IT  
AS THEY  
WISH.

THANKS,  
BUT  
YOU'VE  
GOT THE  
WRONG  
PERSON.

WE THREE  
SHOULD BE  
ENOUGH  
FOR YOU TO  
HANDLE.

SINCE  
YOUR  
INTENTIONS  
SEEM  
UPRIGHT  
AND JUST,  
WE WON'T  
LET THE  
OTHERS  
INTER-  
FERE.

SHOULD YOU  
WISH THAT  
CARRIAGE  
DESTROYED  
AND BURNED  
TO THE GROUND,  
JUST ASK IT  
OF US...















WHORRRR!  
Eeeeee...



WHERE'D  
THOSE  
THREE  
GO...?

YES, MILORD.  
THERE'S A  
SECRET PATH  
KNOWN  
ONLY TO THE  
VILLAGERS...



MILORD  
D, ARE  
YOU  
INJURED  
?!

CAN I GET  
DOWN THE  
MOUNTAIN  
FROM THE  
REAR?





GOD-  
DAMMIT...  
WHY COULDN'T  
HE TAKE  
HIS FUCKIN'  
TIME COMIN'  
BACK LIKE  
HE USUALLY  
DOES?





I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT'S  
GOTTEN INTO  
YOU TODAY,  
BUT YOU  
PUT UP ONE  
HELL OF A  
FIGHT...



HEH!

YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
JUST  
PLAYED  
NICE AND  
DONE...  
...WHAT  
I TOLD  
YOU,  
LIKE  
USUAL..



HIS  
SPONTANEOUS  
SEIZURES'RE  
BECOMING  
MORE  
FREQUENT  
THESE  
DAYS.

QUIT  
IT!



PSHAW!  
AS IF WE  
CAN  
PREDICT  
THE  
FUTURE.

WE DON'T  
KNOW WHAT'LL  
HAPPEN IF WE  
KEEP FORCING  
THESE  
ADDITIONAL  
ONES...



HEHEH  
...OF  
COURSE  
...

...THAT  
PROBABLY  
MADE IT  
ALL THE  
EASIER TO  
GET HIM  
WORKED  
UP.



HEY,  
BRO.

IT'S  
ME—  
KYLE.

AND  
PUTTING  
ME  
THOUGH  
HELL ALL  
ALONE...

...YOU  
HAVING  
LEILA  
ALL TO  
YOURSELF  
...

YOU WANT  
TO KNOW,  
KYLE...?  
YOU  
WANT TO  
KNOW?

AND  
YOU  
WANT  
TO  
KNOW  
?

YEAH.  
I  
WANNA  
KNOW...

HOW'D  
IT GO?

TELL ME  
WHAT  
YOU SAW  
OUT  
THERE.

OUR PREY'S  
HEADING  
FOR THE  
CLAYBOURNE  
STATES.

KOFF





I AM  
CAROLINE.

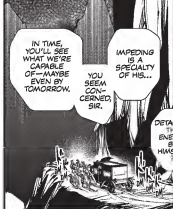
WE HAVE  
BEEN  
AWAITING  
FOR YOUR  
APPEAR-  
ANCE.

GREETINGS.  
I'M  
MASHIRA.

BARON  
MAYER-  
LING.

YOU'RE  
ONE  
SHORT.





IN TIME,  
YOU'LL SEE  
WHAT WE'RE  
CAPABLE  
OF—MAYBE  
EVEN BY  
TOMORROW.

YOU  
SEEM  
CON-  
CERNED,  
SIR.

IMPEDING  
IS A  
SPECIALTY  
OF HIS...

DETAINING  
THE  
ENEMY?  
BY  
HIMSELF?



YES,  
SIR.

BENGE,  
HE'S  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE  
KEEPING  
THE  
ENEMY  
BUSY.

HE WILL  
MEET UP  
WITH US  
LATER.



...BE  
INTRO-  
DUCED TO  
THE LADY  
RIDING  
WITHIN?

ON A DIF-  
FERENT  
NOTE,  
MIGHT WE...



HUNTERS  
OTHER THAN  
HIM AREN'T  
MUCH OF  
A THREAT.

THERE IS  
A PACK OF  
HOUNDS  
CHASING US,  
BESIDES  
THE ONE.

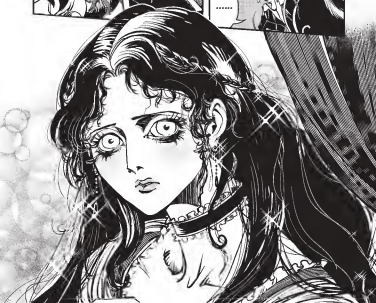


MOST  
LIKELY.



NO,  
HOLD  
ON.

IS THE YOUNG  
MAN WHO  
RAN AMUCK  
IN YOUR  
VILLAGE ONE  
OF THEM?









WE JUST  
HAVE TO  
FULFILL  
THE  
CON-  
TRACT.

WHAT CAN  
YOU DO?  
HE'S OUR  
EMPLOYER.

WHERE DOES HE  
GET OFF ORDERING  
THE MIGHTY  
MASHIRA AROUND—  
ESPECIALLY  
ONE SUCH AS  
HIMSELF *DOOMED*  
TO EXTINCTION?  
EVERYONE IN OUR  
VILLAGE KNOWS  
MY ABILITIES.



SO,  
LISTEN.

I HAVE AN  
IDEA TO  
RUN PAST  
YOU.

ENOUGH!



ARE YOU  
IN LOVE  
WITH  
THAT  
GUY?

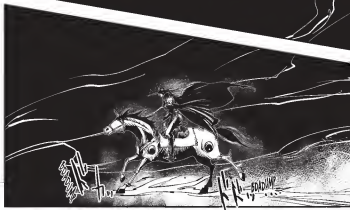


WHAT'RE  
YOU—?

I CAN  
SEE WHY  
YOU'D  
BE AT-  
TRACT-  
ED TO  
HIM.

HE'S  
THE  
REAL  
THING,  
AND  
YOU'RE  
A  
FAKE.

NO  
NEED  
TO  
HIDE  
IT.











YOU SAID  
SO LONG AS  
I'M HERE,  
YOU'RE  
HERE TOO?



YOU CAN'T  
ENTER THE  
SHADOWS IF  
YOU DON'T  
EXTRACT  
THE  
NEEDLE.

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER  
?





...YOU CREEP.

LOOM









WE FELL  
RIGHT INTO  
AN ENEMY  
TRAP.

HOH-  
HOH.

HURRY.

IT LOOKS  
LIKE THIS  
TOOK US  
WAY OUT OF  
OUR WAY.











IT'S KINDA  
OBVIOUS WHEN  
THE SUN'S  
NOT SO BRIGHT,  
YET YOU STILL  
SHADE YOUR  
EYES.



YOU WENT  
AND GOT  
TURNED  
INTO A  
VAMPIRE.

I DON'T  
WANNA  
KILL MY  
OWN  
BROTHER,  
BUT...



REST IN  
PEACE.  
I'LL  
AVENGE  
YOU.



BUT NOW,  
AT LEAST  
I KNOW  
WHAT SHE  
REALLY  
IS.











AUGH!



I DON'T THINK SO.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!  
RELEASE ME!

WE'VE GONE AGAINST OUR ELDER,  
SO NOW THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO OBEY THE LAWS OF OUR VILLAGE.

HEHEH...  
*SHE'S* GOT HER EYE SET ON THE NOBLE.

FORGET ABOUT THAT MAYERLING.  
CAROLINE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE HUNTERS.

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!  
LET ME GO!  
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL—!



IF YOU KEEP QUIET AND OBEY, YOU WON'T GET HURT.

I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU...

YOU'RE GONNA BE MINE.



NOBODY'S GONNA HEAR YOU SCREAM IN THIS FOREST.

YOU'LL DO WHAT?





SO  
YOU...

DON'T  
PLAY  
DUMB.  
THAT'S A  
NOBLE'S  
CARRIAGE.



WELL...



NO BITE  
MARKS...

WHICH  
MEANS  
YOU'RE  
WITH A  
NOBLE BY  
CHOICE.



BUT FIRST,  
I'LL HAVE  
SOME  
FUN WITH  
YOU.

HEHEH...  
TRAITORS  
DESERVE  
TO DIE.



GODDAMN  
TRAITOR!







HEHEH —  
IT'S NO  
USE  
RUNNING.



I ONLY  
GAVE YOU A  
LITTLE BIT  
OF ME...

BUT IT  
SHOULD  
BE READY  
SOON  
ENOUGH.



MIGHT AS  
WELL ENJOY  
A GAME  
OF HIDE-  
AND-SEEK,  
UNTIL THEN.



AN ANCIENT BATTLEFIELD

THE REMAINS OF ELABORATE HUMANOID ROBOTS LAY REST HERE.





HERE HE  
COMES.



....O...  
NOW  
THERE'S A  
MAN TO BE  
FEARED.



THAT  
DOESN'T  
SOUND  
LIKE ANY  
HUMAN'S  
HORSE.



NOW,  
LISTEN  
TO ME.

FROM  
NOW ON,  
YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
DO AS  
I SAY.





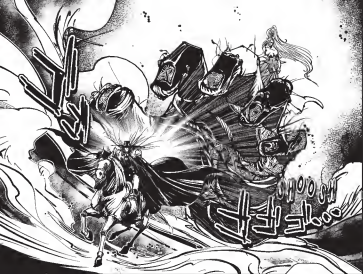




AND  
YOU WILL  
NOT  
PASS.

I'M  
CAROLINE  
OF THE  
BARBAROIS  
...





NOW  
THAT I'VE  
SUCKED  
THE FUEL  
FROM  
THIS  
ARM...

IT'S  
BLOOD—  
IT'S ONE  
OF MY  
KIND  
TOO.



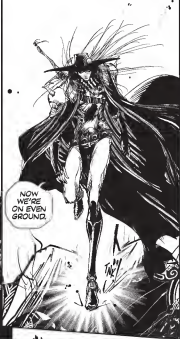
HOH HOH  
HOH!  
WHAT'S THE  
MATTER  
HUNTER?

AT  
YOUR  
WIT'S  
END?



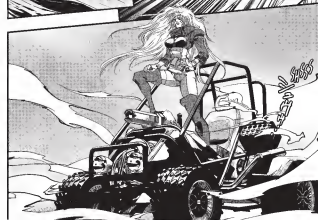
IS THAT  
SWORD ON  
YOUR BACK  
JUST FOR  
SHOW?















IT'S THE  
SUNLIGHT  
SYNDROME,  
ISN'T IT?

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
D?



I SWEAR...  
I CAN'T  
PREDICT IT—  
NOT WHEN  
YOU'RE SO  
MUCH TOUGHER  
THAN THE  
AVERAGE JOE.



OF COURSE,  
IF YOU WERE  
AN ORDINARY  
DRAMPIR,  
IT'D HAPPEN  
REGULARLY  
EVERY SIX  
MONTHS.



BUT  
IN YOUR  
CASE—  
WHAT'S IT  
BEEN NOW,  
FIVE  
YEARS?



EH?



THAT'S  
RIGHT

THE BEST  
TREATMENT  
FOR SUNLIGHT  
SYNDROME IS  
TO LAY DOWN  
IN MOTHER  
EARTH.



HERE'S  
HOPING  
OUR LUCK  
HOLDS.

SO...  
WE'RE ON  
VACATION  
FOR A  
BIT.











I WAS ONE OF THE THREE NEAR THE CARRIAGE IN THE VILLAGE OF THE BAR-BAROS.

ほい! POLY!



HOLD ON NOW...

NO  
お  
お  
お

I'M MORE THAN A MATCH FOR YOUR LITTLE TRICKS.

I'VE BEEN JUMPING FROM BODY TO BODY FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS.

SUR-PRISED, YOUNG'UN?  
THIS'S THE REAL ME.



DON'T YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE GIRL?

4  
CHAY!

YOU LET LOOSE WITH ANY OF YOUR LIGHTNING, AND I FIRE MY GUN.











NO  
WONDER  
HE'S PART  
OF THE  
MARCUS  
CLAN.

THAT  
WAS A  
CLOSE  
CALL.

WELL  
I'LL BE  
DAMNED.



BUT  
WHAT THE  
HELL'S  
THE REAL  
HEM  
LIKE?

MAN  
OH  
MAN.

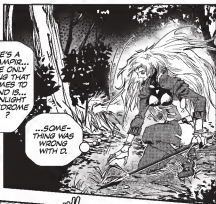
I'VE  
SEEN WHAT  
HE CAN  
DO FIRST-  
HAND...





HE'S A  
DAMPYR...  
THE ONLY  
THING THAT  
COMES TO  
MIND IS...  
SUNLIGHT  
SYNDROME  
?

...SOME-  
THING WAS  
WRONG  
WITH D.







HE  
KEPT ME  
WARM  
DURING  
THAT,



...WHO  
PATCHED  
ME UP  
BEFORE,  
WEREN'T  
YOU, D?

BUT  
YOU  
WERE  
THE  
ONE...

I DON'T  
REALLY  
REMEM-  
BER...



FORGET  
I SAID  
ANYTHING  
...

I CAN'T  
BE  
WITH A  
HUNTER...

...





QUIT  
JOKING  
AROUND.

WILL  
YOU  
MARRY  
ME?



YOU  
BELONG  
TO US...

I'VE ALWAYS  
WANTED TO  
GET SOME  
FROM YOU.

STOP!

GUYS,  
STOP  
IT!

YOU  
AIN'T  
GOIN'  
ANY-  
WHERE.



YOU  
SAVED MY  
LIFE.





—EVEN  
IF IT  
KILLS  
ME.

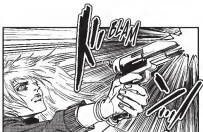
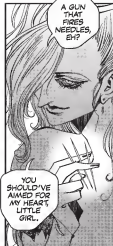
THIS TIME,  
I'LL  
PROTECT  
YOU.



IT'S NOT EVEN  
EASY FOR  
THE NOBILITY  
TO ENTER  
OUR VILLAGE,  
YOU KNOW.

HOH HOH HOH,  
YOU THINK YOU  
CAN BEAT A  
WOMAN OF THE  
BARBAROIS  
WITH A CHILD'S  
TOY LIKE THAT?









I SUCKED  
THE  
SAP OF  
ALL THE  
SURROUNDING  
TREES.

ONCE  
I KNEW  
YOU'D  
REACH  
HERE  
BEFORE  
ME,



WHAP?



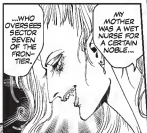
ARE  
YOU A  
NOBLE  
?!



THIS MEANS  
I NOW HAVE  
THOUSANDS  
OF MY  
OWN LIMBS.



SAP IS  
A TREE'S  
LIFE-  
BLOOD  
...



OH, DON'T  
WORRY—  
I'LL GET TO  
YOU SOON  
ENOUGH.

HO-HO—  
HOW  
COURAGE-  
OUS.

KILL ME  
INSTEAD  
...

STOP!

AFTER  
THIS, THE  
MAYERLING  
WILL BE  
MINE!

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH



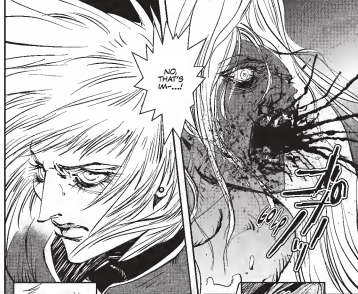
MASHIRA  
MUST BE  
ONE OF  
YOUR PALS...  
IS HE THE  
SAME KIND  
AS ME?

LET'S NOT  
HAVE YOU  
CALLING ME  
STRANGE  
NAMES, NOW.

MASHIRA  
?!



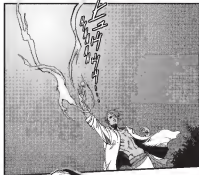






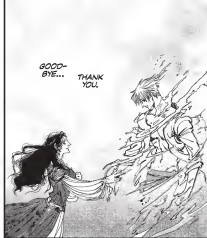
















SHE'S  
BEEN  
CHASING  
US...

A  
HUNTER!



ARE YOU,  
BY ANY  
CHANCE...

...THE ONE  
FROM THE  
CARRIAGE?



I'M A  
VAMPIRE  
HUNTER  
YOUR  
FATHER  
HIRE.



WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER?  
YOU CAN  
GO HOME  
NOW.

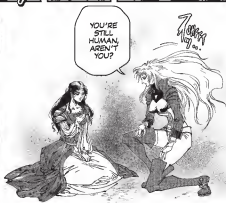
LEAVE.

PLEASE,  
JUST  
HURRY  
AND GO  
AWAY.



THAT'S  
WHAT I  
THOUGHT.

I'M LEILA  
MARCUS.







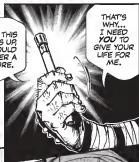








WHEN THIS  
BLOWS UP  
IT SHOULD  
TRIGGER A  
SEIZURE.







I  
THOUGHT  
SO.

IT WON'T  
BE TOO  
LATE, IF  
WE ACT  
NOW.

THIS  
MUST BE  
THAT ONE  
GUARD,  
MASHIRA?

EACH  
ONE CAN  
SEND ITS  
THOUGHTS  
TO THE  
OTHERS.

THEY ALSO  
HAVE A  
COLLECTIVE  
CONSCIOUS-  
NESS.

THESE  
THINGS  
AND THEIR  
BLK ALL  
LOOK THE  
SAME.



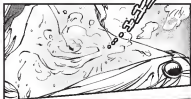






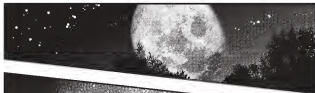
THAT  
DID IT.

IT'LL GET  
ABSORBED  
BY HER  
OWN  
ORGANS,  
NOW.



WHAT'S  
WITH  
YOUR LEFT  
HAND  
...?

D,  
UM...



IT'S LIKE A  
MINIATURE  
VERSION  
OF THE  
CAPITAL.

















AND YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITH BOTH SHOULDERS PIERCED.

YOU CAN'T PULL OUT THE ARROWS IF YOU CAN'T RAISE YOUR ARMS.



ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU DON'T

IF YOU MOVE, THIS ARROW OF MINE'S GOIN' RIGHT THROUGH YOUR HEART!

YOU CAN'T, CAN YOU?!

WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO RUN?

...YOU'LL BE FOOD FOR THOSE MAN-EATING MINTS— THEY CAN SMELL YOUR BLOOD!



SHAFT  
THROUGH  
THE HEART,  
OR EATEN  
ALIVE  
BY THE  
MINTS?!

COM  
NO  
TO T  
ABO



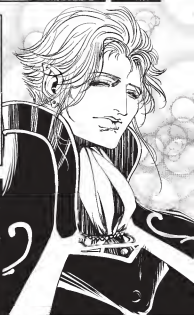
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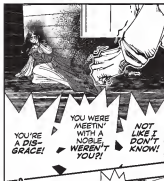
WHY  
DON'T WE  
GO AWAY  
SOME-  
WHERE—  
JUST THE  
TWO OF  
US?



...IF IT'S  
WITH  
YOU.

I WOULD  
GO ANY-  
WHERE...





YOU'RE  
A DIS-  
GRACE!

YOU WERE  
MEETIN'  
WITH A  
NOBLE,  
WEREN'T  
YOU?!

NOT  
LIKE I  
DON'T  
KNOW!



WHAT THE  
HELL WERE  
YOU DOING,  
SNEAKIN'  
OUT AT NIGHT?!



HE'S  
NOT  
LIKE  
THAT!

NO!!



DON'T  
TALK  
BACK!



YOU'LL  
NEVER  
SEE THAT  
NOBLE  
AGAIN!

I HIRED  
HUNTERS  
!

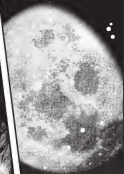
NO...

STOP  
THIS!!









LET ME  
JUST ASK  
YOU ONE  
THING...









IT'S A  
GOOD  
THING...

...



WHY  
DOES IT  
HAVE TO  
END SO  
BADLY?

I MEAN,  
IT  
STARTED  
OUT SO  
WELL...



LOOKS  
LIKE  
HE'S  
HERE  
FOR  
YOU.



SHUU



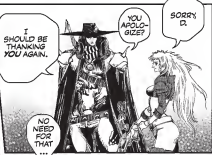


THANK  
YOU!  
THANK  
YOU  
BOTH  
OF  
YOU!

THANK  
YOU



THEN YOU CAN  
CHOOSE TO  
EITHER TAIL ME,  
OR GO BACK  
TO YOUR  
BROTHERS.



I  
SHOULD BE  
THANKING  
YOU AGAIN.

YOU  
APOLO-  
GIZE?

SORRY  
D.

NO  
NEED  
FOR  
THAT  
...



WE SAY  
GOOD-  
BYE  
THERE.

TOMORROW  
MORNING I'LL  
TAKE YOU TO  
WHERE YOUR  
VEHICLE'S  
PARKED.

GET  
SOME  
SLEEP.

THUD  
K  
#



IF YOU  
ATTACK ME,  
I'LL KILL  
YOU.

IS A  
WOMAN  
UNWORTHY  
OF YOUR  
SWORD?

YOU  
SURE  
ARE  
KIND.

I'M A  
BUSINESS  
RIVAL,  
YOU  
KNOW.

HUNTING IS  
NO TRADE FOR  
A GIRL WHO  
CALLS OUT TO  
HER MOTHER  
WHEN SHE'S  
CLOSE TO  
DEATH.

...

...



IT'S  
NOT FOR  
WOMEN.

THE MOMENT  
YOU ENJOY  
TRACKING DOWN  
YOUR PREY,  
YOU CEASE  
TO HOLD ANY  
HUMANITY.

HOW  
LONG...?  
FOR AS  
LONG AS  
I CAN  
REMEMBER.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
HOW TO  
DO  
ANYTHING  
ELSE.



HOW  
LONG'VE  
YOU  
BEEN A  
HUNTER?



THERE'S  
TOO  
MUCH  
BLOOD  
ON MY  
HANDS.

...I'M  
PAST THE  
POINT  
WHERE I  
CAN  
CHANGE  
HOW I  
LIVE.

GEE,  
THANKS  
A LOT—  
LAY OFF...



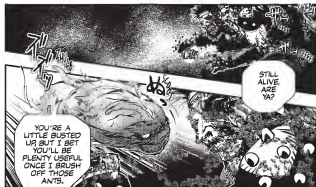
...  
...



IT  
CAN BE  
WASHED  
OFF.

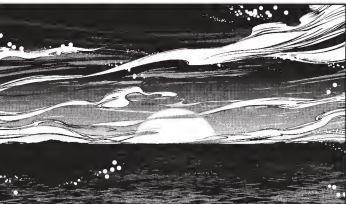


WELL  
LOOKY  
WHAT I  
FOUND.

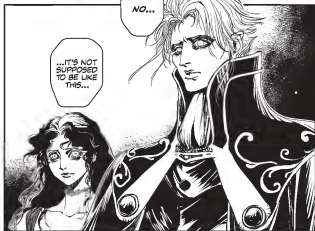
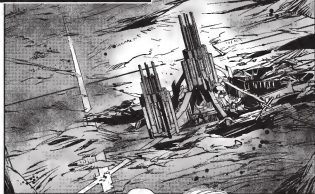


YOU'RE A  
LITTLE BUSTED  
UP, BUT I BET  
YOU'LL BE  
PLENTY USEFUL  
ONCE I BRUSH  
OFF THOSE  
ANTS.

STILL  
ALIVE,  
ARE  
YA?



CLAYBOURNE STATES SPACEPORT













I...



WHAT  
DID I  
ALMOST  
DO...?

...WHAT  
...



IT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER.

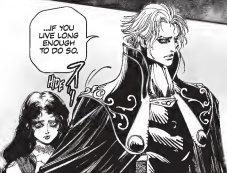




THE  
JOUR-  
NEY'S  
OVER.



HAND  
OVER THE  
GIRL.



...IF YOU  
LIVE LONG  
ENOUGH  
TO DO SO.

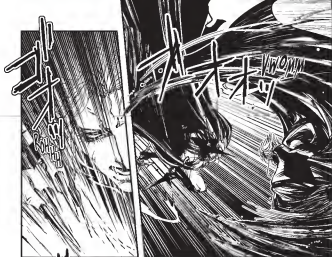
TAKE  
HER  
YOUR-  
SELF...







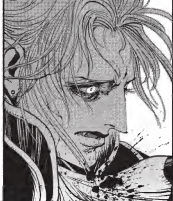














THAT  
WAS A  
GOOD  
DODGE.



NO...  
DON'T  
MOVE  
ME.



WHY'D  
YOU  
MISS...

...MY  
HEART  
...?



Q...



...

...



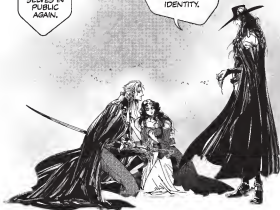


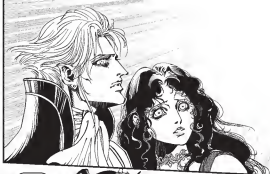


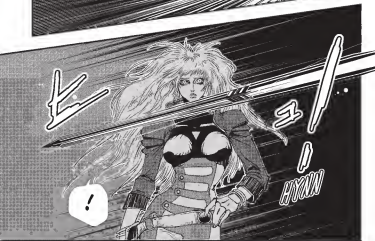
NEVER  
SHOW  
YOUR-  
SELVES IN  
PUBLIC  
AGAIN.

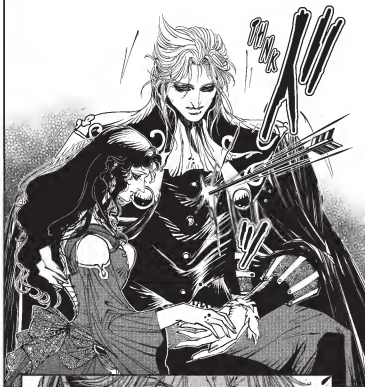
BARON  
MAYERLING  
AND HIS  
HUMAN  
LOVER ARE  
DEAD.

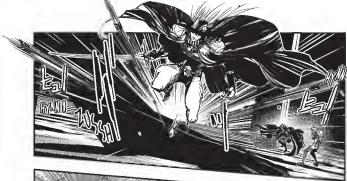
AS LONG  
AS I HAVE  
HER HAIR,  
THE SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE CAN  
CONFIRM HER  
IDENTITY.











EHEHEHHH!  
YOU'RE  
NEXT, PAL!

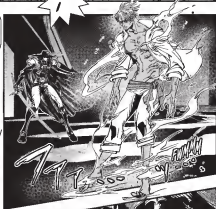


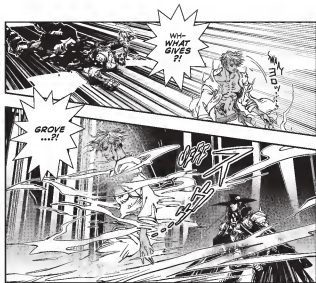
I'VE  
STILL  
GOT  
OPTIONS.

GOD-  
DAMN  
YOU!

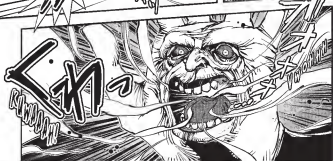
BUT  
IF HIS  
MEMORY  
SERVES  
ME...

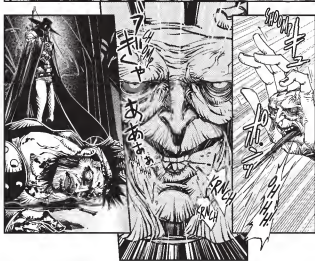










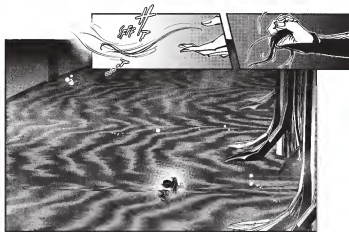


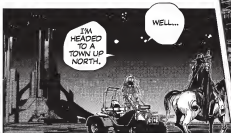
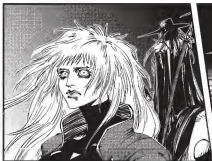


SHE  
IMPALED  
HERSELF—  
ON HIS  
CLAWS...



...SHE  
SAID  
"THANK  
YOU."



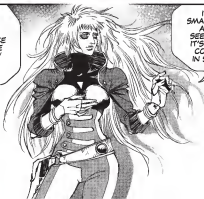


I'M  
HEADED  
TO A  
TOWN UP  
NORTH.

WELL...

A YOUNG  
BUTCHER  
THERE ONCE  
ASKED ME  
TO MARRY  
HIM.

IT'S A  
SMALL TOWN,  
AND IT  
SEEMS LIKE  
IT'S ALWAYS  
COVERED  
IN SNOW...





TAKE  
CARE,  
THEN.

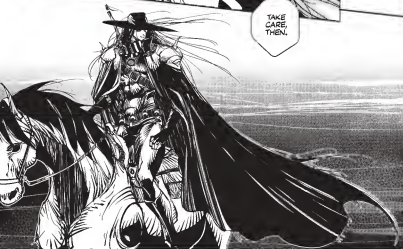


HE  
TOLD ME  
HE'D  
ALWAYS  
WAIT FOR  
ME...



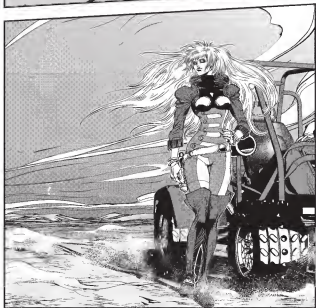
HE'S  
THE ONLY  
ONE...

...WHO  
EVER KNEW  
WHO MY  
FAMILY  
WAS AND  
DIDN'T  
MIND IT...



YOU  
DO THE  
SAME.





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# AFTERWORD

ANIME EXPO  
AX 2008

3

MR. KIKUCHI  
AND I MADE  
A TRIP OF IT.

A 7-DAY  
9-NIGHT TRIP



IN 2008, IT TOOK PLACE  
AT THE LOS ANGELES  
CONVENTION CENTER.

THE CONCERT AND WHATNOT  
WERE HELD NEXT DOOR AT  
THE KOKA THEATRE!

ANIME EXPO IS THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS  
ANIME/MANGA EVENT IN THE U.S.

IT'S HELD  
AROUND 4TH  
OF JULY  
EVERY YEAR.

THERE ARE DOZENS OF EXHIBITOR  
BOOTHS RANGING FROM ANIME  
COMPANIES AND PUBLISHERS, GUEST  
CONCERTS AND AUTOGRAPH SESSIONS,  
EXHIBITIONS, PANELS (LIKE FOR  
SYMPOSIUMS AND CORPORATE  
ANNOUNCEMENTS), DOWN TO ALL THE  
LITTLE ACTIVITIES HAPPENING ALL AROUND.

IT'S OFTEN COMPARED TO  
COMDEX IN DUBLIN, BUT MY  
IMPRESSION WAS A GROSS  
"BETWEEN TOY, GAME, SHOW,  
CONVENT, AND DESIGN FESTA."

THE PLACE  
IS HUGE,  
AND EXTREMELY  
CROWDED

COSTUME = EXTENSIVE!



\*ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

FIRST PRIZE IN  
THE RAFFLE WAS  
"DINNER WITH US."



WE HAD  
STEAK!

A  
VERY  
SAY  
19-  
YEAR-  
OLD

IT WAS A D-RELATED  
PRESENTATION,  
Q & A, AND RAFFLE.

DMP HELD A PANEL, TOO.

I  
THINK  
IT  
LASTED  
ABOUT  
AN  
HOUR!

MR.  
KIKUCHI

INTER-  
PRETER

ME

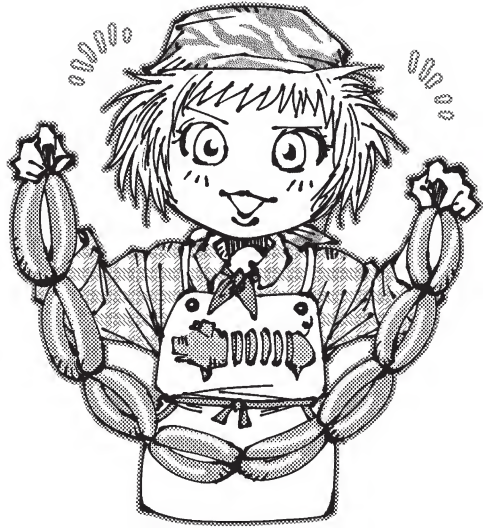


MAKING PAGES

THERE WERE LOTS OF LARGE  
BANNERS OF VAMPIRE HUNTER D!







LIKE IT? BUY IT!



LOVAG